

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 2–4, 7, 9, 11, 15–17, and 19–25 will be pending. Claims 2–4, 7, 9, 11, and 15–16 are amended; claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, and 18 are hereby canceled without prejudice; and new dependent claims 19–25 are added. Support for the claim amendments and for the new claims may be found, for example, in the previously filed claims, as well as in the specification of application PCT/US2003/034577 as originally filed, e.g., page 6, lines 8–15 and lines 22–29; page 7, lines 5–7; page 9, lines 16–27; page 10, lines 12–16; Figures 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and related text; and in the originally filed claims of application PCT/US2003/034577. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 2–4, 7, 9, 11, and 15–17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants amended the claims accordingly.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,243,699 to Alferness et al. The rejection of these claims is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 570-1806.

A check for \$400 for the extra claim fee is enclosed. Applicants believe that no additional fee is necessitated by the filing of this amendment. However, if any additional fee is due, please charge said fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

Respectfully submitted,

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